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Question Time: Yelp, but for humans

Coming app, Peeple, allows you to rate everyone

By Rob Burgess
Tribune night editor

[**Editor's note:** To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

When you think about it, something like this was really only a matter of a time.

“You can already rate restaurants, hotels, movies, college classes, government agencies and bowel movements online,” reported Caitlin Dewey of The Washington Post on Tuesday. “So the most surprising thing about Peeple — basically Yelp, but for humans — may be the fact that no one has yet had the gall to launch something like it. When the app does launch, probably in late November, you will be able to assign reviews and one- to five-star ratings to everyone you know: your exes, your co-workers, the old guy who lives next door. You can’t opt out — once someone puts your name in the Peeple system, it’s there unless you violate the site’s terms of service. And you can’t delete bad or biased reviews — that would defeat the whole purpose.”

So, we wanted to know: “What do you think of this service and why?”

Your answers

“That's utterly ridiculous. When did everyone's opinion on anything begin to matter?” — **Corey Barrett**

“That just sounds mean-spirited.” — **Susan Hayes**

“I'm pretty sure the universe tried this already; it's called Hot or Not.” —
Lisa Marie Ryder

“Can I review dead people? Cause I got a bone to pick with Al Jolson.” —
Alan Birkemeier

“Most of these sites have bad balance issues, especially since it doesn't cost anything to post a rating. It will have a lot of selection bias.” — **Adam Stark**

“Trash!” — **Sara King**

Our answers

“What could possibly go wrong?” — **Steve Mullen**

“I think it's a terrible idea. It is a form of bullying. Imagine if you are one that people rate poorly all the time? That could be very damaging to someone's self-esteem.” — **LaRie Myers**

“An app like Peeple was just a matter of time. People can already leave reports building up others' reputations on networking sites like LinkedIn and there's even been a dating app allowing women to leave comments about the men they date. But by opening the possibilities up to less-than-positive reviews of anyone, the Peeple app developer is also opening the Pandora's box of libel liability. Do they really want to risk being sued by some regular Joe who's been reviewed negatively? Besides, reviews from anonymous sources are already less than reliable (see also: Revenge Yelp). I don't think it's a good idea. People are better off learning about people's character the old-fashioned way.” — **Sarah Einselen**

“Errrrr ... dumbest thing I've ever heard of.” — **Jessyka Betzner**

“Honestly, this app kind of creeps me out. I’m not big on all of the social media sites and apps out there, which I know is odd to hear coming from a young adult and from a ‘millennial.’ From what I have heard it’s an app to rate people personally, professionally and romantically. While that may sound fine at first, I’m not too fond of people rating me as a person, whether it’s my friends, family or people meeting me for the first time. Each person will have a different view on anyone, so I’m not sure how accurate rating people on Peeple will be. This isn’t the same thing as rating a restaurant or business. I foresee a lot of privacy and legal issues with this app in the future.” — **Kaylee Harden**

“What a dystopian nightmare. With Yelp at least you could make the argument that even though the businesses in question might not want to have a page, at least they are selling something. But now I have to be evaluated just for breathing? Take a hike! And you want to talk about cyberbullying? After this gets released watch the teen suicides go through the roof. One bright spot to all this is seeing the nearly universal backlash this news has spawned. One of the creators, Julia Cordray, even posted something on her Facebook account asking how to turn off comments on the company’s posts. Yeah, Julia, unsolicited online opinions aren’t super fun all the time, huh?” — **Rob Burgess**

Rob Burgess, Tribune night editor, may be reached by calling 765-454-8577, via email at rob.burgess@kokomotribune.com or on Twitter at twitter.com/robaburg.